

Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC)

Approved Minutes, June 4, 2015

Attending: Commission members: Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Jonathan Hyde, Aimee Taberner, Carla Dorato. Guest: Will Sullivan.

Absent: Adria Arch, Leland Stein, Cultural Liaison Amy Mongeau

The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm.

- 1. Minutes** of April 9, April 16, and May 7 were reviewed and approved.
- 2. Briefing:** Commission members met Will Sullivan, who is helping ACAC with a public art inventory as well as interning at the Regent Theatre this summer, and briefed him on ACAC's mission and current initiatives.
- 3. Cultural Plan:** Information from telephone call with Meri Jenkins at Mass Cultural Council:

Cultural plans are helpful to communities. Should be living, breathing documents, updated often. Should have very specific action plan and recommendations specific to community. Community buy-in is essential to success of plan. Plan should establish benchmarks and build in accountability. Look at Lowell's cultural plan – similar cultural structure to Arlington. Recommends that ACAC interview 2 or 3 cultural planners. MCC is willing to distribute ACAC's RFP. Northampton spent \$6,000 for 6, 3-hour meetings with report for each and final report.

To do:

Research other town/city cultural plans

Draft RFP

Develop list of cultural planners (Ann Budner from Natick has list)

- 4. Cultural District:** Information from Meri Jenkins at MCC:

Be bold. Be patient and take time to build consensus. Don't jump to conclusions. Pay attention to who is not at the table as planning gets underway. Avoid dead zones when planning district boundaries. Network with other districts. Can district boundaries be changed after MCC approval? Yes, 2 districts modified boundaries. Governance: establish a steering committee within the partnership. Consider forming specific task groups. Some districts developing a rotating primary point person. Very important to have an active town liaison on the governance structure. Process requires excellent communications, transparency, and accountability.

Use local facilitator for meetings? Stacie Smith facilitated Arlington Alive meetings.

Tentative schedule: Public hearing in September; submit application to MCC in the Fall?

Next meeting of cultural district working group is June 25. Barbara Costa & Stephanie Marlin-Curiel will plan agenda; Barbara will chair meeting.-

Tasks:

Leland Stein -- Find out from town comptroller financial procedures for payments, reimbursements, purchase orders. Do we have to bid out goods/services over specific dollar amount?

Aimee Taberner & Jonathan Hyde -- post previous minutes; research other city/town cultural plans and report back at July meeting
Easthampton (Burns Maxey) -- Aimee
Newton and Lowell -- Jonathan

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel -- send revised ACAC/A-TED meeting minutes to Jonathan for posting

Aimee Taberner -- contact Meri @ MCC to see if we can get a contact list for existing cultural districts

Barbara Costa -- check on previous agenda not posted on town site

Barbara Costa & Stephanie Marlin-Curiel - plan agenda for next CD meeting on June 25. Barbara will chair meeting

Next meeting: Scheduled for July 9 at 7:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.